

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0212

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MAY 19 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND PLENARY MEETING
OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, AND FIRST OF THE NINTH ROUND,
TOOK PLACE ON MAY 19 WITH ACTING BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) IN
THE CHAIR. NETHERLANDS REP (DE VOS) AND GDR REP (OESER)
WERE THE ONLY SPEAKERS. GDR REP'S STATEMENT IS REPORTED BY
SEPTTEL. THE NETHERLANDS STATEMENT PRESENTED THE WESTERN
EVALUATION OF WHERE THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW STOOD AND OF WHAT
THE NEW ROUND OUGHT TO BRING. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE
STATEMENT WERE:

A. THE AGREED TASK OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS IS
"TO CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE STABLE RELATIONSHIP AND
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STRENGTHENED PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE," IN CONFORMITY

WITH THE AGREED PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY.

B. FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON HOW THESE OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE ACHIEVED IN PRACTICE HAS RESULTED IN CONTINUING DEADLOCK.

C. WESTERN REPS HAVE FREQUENTLY EXPLAINED HOW THE WEST CONSIDERS THE PROBLEMS FACING PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE LIGHT OF AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS.

D. TO DIMINISH THE RISK OF CONFLICT AND ESCALATION IN EUROPE, WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSALS CONCENTRATE ON THE KEY DISPARITIES IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND MAIN BATTLE TANKS.

E. BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF PARITY, WESTERN COMMON CEILING PROPOSALS FULFILL THE REQUIREMENT FOR A STABLE OUTCOME TO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

F. NEGOTIATIONS AND RESULTING REDUCTIONS AGREEMENTS MUST BE PHASED IN A MANNER THAT PROMOTES THE NECESSARY CONFIDENCE IN THE ULTIMATE OUTCOME OF THE REDUCTION PROCESS.

G. SINCE THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED UNDER AN AGREEMENT MUST NOT INTERFERE WITH NATO'S INTEGRATED DEFENSE SYSTEM OR PREJUDICE THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE, THE CEILINGS PROPOSED BY THE WEST ARE OF A COLLECTIVE CHARACTER.

H. THE WESTERN APPROACH INCLUDES PROVISION FOR FLANK SECURITY AND ALSO FOR EFFECTIVE AND REALISTIC ASSOCIATED MEASURES.

I. IN DECEMBER 1975, IN ADDITION TO ITS EARLIER PROPOSALS, THE WEST OFFERED TO INCLUDE A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN REDUCTIONS, AND TO LIMIT THESE ELEMENTS AT THEIR RESIDUAL LEVELS, IN ORDER TO GAIN EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROGRAM.
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J. WHEN ALL FACTORS ARE WEIGHED, INCLUDING THE MILITARY VALUE OF PROPOSED WESTERN REDUCTIONS, THE LIMITATIONS THE WEST WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT, AND THE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF THE SOVIET UNION, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE WEST IS OFFERING AT LEAST AS MUCH AS IT IS ASKING FOR AND WOULD NOT GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES AT THE EXPENSE OF EASTERN SECURITY.

K. THE EASTERN APPORACH, BY CONTRAST, HAS SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS ON EACH OF THE ABOVE COUNTS.

L. MOREOVER, EASTERN FAILURE TO PUT FORWARD DATA, AS THE WEST DID AT THE VERY OUTSET OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE CONTINUING IMPASSE IN THE VIENNA TALKS.

M. THE DISCUSSION ON FORCE DEFINITIONS LAST ROUND FURTHER DEMONSTRATED THE NEED FOR THE EAST TO TABLE DATA ON ALL ITS ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE AREA.

N. IN SUM, THE NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN AT AN IMPASSE, ONE WHICH THE WEST TRIED TO BREAK OUT OF WITH ITS DECEMBER 16 NUCLEAR OFFER.

O. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 1976, ON THE OTHER HAND, DID NOT DEPART FROM THE BASIC EASTERN POSITION OF NOVEMBER 1973 AND THUS CANNOT REALISTICALLY BE REPRESENTED AS A MOVE TOWARDS A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME.

P. THE WEST HOPES THE EAST WILL IN THE PRESENT ROUND MATCH ITS EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN PROGRESS WITH APPROPRIATE ACTION BY PROVIDING A SERIOUS RESPONSE TO THE WESTERN NUCLEAR OFFER AND BY TABLING EASTERN DATA.

2. FULL TEXT OF THE NETHERLANDS STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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